



News from

Congressman Ron Kind

REPRESENTING WISCONSIN'S THIRD
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

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Kind Hails \$33.5 Million for Mississippi River Maintenance

Long-time Support for Environmental Management Program (EMP) Yields Full Funding

Washington, DC –Today U.S. Rep. Ron Kind (D-WI), Co-Chair of the Upper Mississippi Task Force, hailed the inclusion of \$33.5 million for the Environmental Management Program (EMP) in the House passed Energy and Water Appropriations Bill.

“The EMP serves as a national model for the evaluation and enhancement of river ecosystems, and it has come to be recognized as the single most important effort committed to ensuring the vitality of the Upper Mississippi River System,” stated Rep. Kind. “The full funding of EMP at \$33.5 million will enable major progress towards a healthier river system and is a real victory for those of us who have fought for this critical river project funding.”

The EMP, authorized by the 1986 Water Resource Development Act, is designed to evaluate, restore and enhance river and wetland habitats along a 1300-mile stretch of the Upper Mississippi and Illinois Rivers. One of the nation’s most effective habitat restoration programs, the EMP has been enormously successful offsetting damages to the environment caused by the construction of navigation and flood control projects in the Upper Mississippi River System.

“The program has suffered major setbacks due to inadequate funding in recent years,” stated Kind, a member of the House Committee on Resources, which has jurisdiction over the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Geological Survey. “I, along with a bipartisan coalition of my colleagues, effectively urged the President and appropriators to recognize the need for more EMP funding so significant progress can be made in both the long-term monitoring and habitat restoration plans of one of our country’s most valuable treasures.”

Kind has been the leading supporter of the EMP since he was elected to Congress in 1996. As founder and co-chair of the Upper Mississippi River Congressional Task Force, Kind has been active in promoting the vast benefits of the EMP in Congress and has consistently advocated for full funding.